

F. No. 8/42/2600-DONER (NLCPR)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION

Vigyan Bhawan Annexe, Maulana Azad Road
New Delhi – 110 011,
the 24th September, 2007

Subject: Meeting chaired by Hon'ble Minister, DONER to discuss status of projects for construction of bridges over Lohit and Khabolu Rivers, Lohit Channel between Dhola and Sadia and strengthening of Lakhimpur College of Veterinary Science, Assam, held on 14th September, 2007 at New Delhi

The undersigned is directed to enclose herewith Minutes of the above mentioned meeting held on 14th September, 2007 for information and necessary action.



(L. Thahgen)

Under Secretary to the Government of India
Tel. 2302-2304

To:

1. Secretary, Ministry of Power, Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. Secretary, Ministry of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. Secretary, NEC, Nongrim Hills, Shillong.
4. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, (Shri Kamlesh Kumar, Chief Engineer), Transport Bhawan, New Delhi.
5. Planning Commission (Shri Sarwan Kumar, Director), Yojana Bhawan, New Delhi.
6. Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam, Dispur Guwahati.
7. Chief Secretary, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar.
8. PS to Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma, M.P. (Lok Sabha), 69, South Avenue, New Delhi.
9. PS to Shri Tapir Gao, M.P. (Lok Sabha), 73, South Avenue, New Delhi.
10. NHPC (Shri Ravi Shankar, Chief Engineer), NHPC Office Complex, Sector 33, Faridabad-121003 (Haryana)
11. Resident Commissioners of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, New Delhi

Copy to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister, DONER.
2. PS to Secretary, DONER.
3. PA to Joint Secretary (HK)
4. Dir (PA)/Dir (PRM).

Government of India
Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

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Minutes of the Meeting chaired by Hon'ble Minister, DoNER to discuss status of projects for construction of bridges over Lohit & Khabolu Rivers and Lohit channel and for Strengthening of Lakhimpur College of Veterinary Science held at 11.00 AM on 14.9.2007 at New Delhi.

List of Participants is enclosed.

2. Minister, DoNER welcomed the participants and requested Secretary, DONER to initiate the discussion.

3. Secretary, DoNER informed that the NEC had funded feasibility studies for Construction of bridges over Lohit and Khabolu rivers and for Construction of bridge over Lohit channel between Dhola and Sadia. The feasibility studies were sent to the State Governments and the State Governments are required to take further action on the matter regarding preparation of DPR, tying up the financial resources etc. The proposal for strengthening of Veterinary College at Lakhimpur was submitted by the State Government of Assam to NEC. However, due to fund constraints the proposal could not be taken up by the NEC. The meeting has been convened to discuss the status of the three projects with the State Government concerned and the line Ministries.

Construction of bridge over Lohit channel between Dhola and Sadia

4. Shir Mumtazuddin Ahmed, Chief Engineer PWD, Assam informed that the feasibility study for construction of bride over Lohit River was funded by the NEC and the study has been completed in 2006. The cost for construction of bridges was estimated to be Rs. 505.40 crore. However, no further action has been taken and DPR for the project has not been prepared.

5. Shri Kamlesh Kumar, Chief Engineer, DORTH stated that DPR can be prepared by any agency but the main issued is to find out the resources for funding the scheme.

6. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Power informed that the proposal for construction of bridges over Lohit River is part of the DPR for Dibang Multi purpose project. The project has been submitted to the Central Electricity Authority for approval. CEA has not yet approved the project; however, the Ministry of Power supports the project. He also stated that the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh has singed MOU with many private developers for

development of many power plants. He suggested that the private entrepreneurs can also be requested to share the cost of construction of bridges.

7. Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma, Hon'ble M.P. stated that the Task Force constituted by the Planning Commission has included the above proposal for implementation. The proposal can also be considered under SARDP-NE scheme. Chief Engineer, DORTH, however, clarified that at present the SARDP-NE scheme does not include this proposal.

8. Shri Sarwan Kumar, Director Planning Commission informed that the project is proposed to be included in 11th Plan priorities for implementation.

9. Minister, DONER concluded that this Ministry will take up the matter with Ministry of Power to request CEA to approve the project, considering the priority and its importance for both the States of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh and also considering that the project is proposed to be included in the 11th Plan priorities by the Planning Commission. MoP may also be requested to implement the project on PPP mode, financed through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) wherein NHPC and private power developers who have been allotted projects/sites for hydel power generation in Arunachal Pradesh may share the cost of the bridge. The State Government was also requested to give a copy of the feasibility report to the Planning Commission.

Construction of bridges over Lohit and Khabolu rivers

10. Chief Engineer, Assam, informed that the feasibility study has been completed for the project and the cost of construction of bridges including approaches is estimated to be Rs. 260.00 crore. He also informed that the State Government has included the proposal in the priority list of NEC projects for implementation during 11th Plan.

11. Secretary, DONER informed that the plan allocations for the 11th five year plan have not been communicated to us by the Planning Commission. Moreover, the NEC has huge committed liabilities. However, in view of the importance of the project, the DPR preparation could be taken up by NEC.

12. It was decided that the State Government shall convey to the Planning Commission about inclusion of the project in the 11th Plan Priorities for funding from NEC and request for allocation of more funds for NEC. The Ministry of DONER may also take up the matter with the Planning Commission for enhanced budgetary allocations and with the Ministry of Finance for release of commensurate funds. It was also decided that NEC will prepare the DPR for the project.

Strengthening of Veterinary College at Lakhimpur

13. Secretary DONER informed that the a revised proposal for Rs. 38.77 crore was submitted by the State Government but the project could not be considered due to non-finalization of the 11th Plan outlay and fund constraints faced by NEC.

14. Dr. M. K. Saha, Dy, Commissioner, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying informed that there is not provision of funds during 11th Plan for development of infrastructure of veterinary colleges. Such schemes are funded by Indian Council of Agriculture Research.

15. Sh S. S. Baghel, Vice Chancellor, AA University, informed that earlier a proposal for Rs. 103.94 crore was submitted to NEC but the NEC asked to submit the project only for infrastructure development for strengthening of the College and intimated that no fund will be provided by NEC for meeting the recurring expenses. Subsequently, another proposal for Rs. 38.77 crore was submitted. The proposal is again modified by including Recurring Cost, and is now costing Rs. 70.0 crore. The infrastructure is required to be strengthened as the ICAR has de recognized the College for want of sufficient infrastructure.

16. Secretary, DONER informed that the NEC support only infrastructure development and not recurring expenditure.

17. Minister DONER stated that the central Ministries are required to spend 10% of their gross budgetary allocation for various schemes in North East. He directed that Ministry of Agriculture may be requested to intimate whether out of its 10% allocation for NER, some funds can be earmarked for meeting the non-recurring/recurring expenditure for the Veterinary College. He further directed that ICAR may be requested to consider the proposal as it is for strengthening of the already existing Vet College and is not for a new college. Moreover, it will benefit many States in NER. Matter may also be taken up with the State Government to explore the possibility of funding the recurring expenditure.

18. The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

List of Participants in the Meeting chaired by Hon'ble Minister, DoNER to discuss status of projects for construction of bridges over Lohit & Khabolu rivers and Lohit channel and for Strengthening of Lakhimpur College of Veterinary Science held at 11.00 AM on 14.9.2007 at New Delhi.

1. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Minister, DONER
2. Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Assam
3. Shri Tapir Gao, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Arunachal East
4. Smt. Sushma Singh, Secretary, DONER
5. Dr. H.K. Paliwal, Joint Secretary, DONER
6. Shri Jayant Kawale, Joint Secretary, M/o Power
7. Dr. M.K. Saha, Dy Commissioner, Deptt of Animal Husbandry & Dairying
8. Shri Kamlesh Kumar, Chief Engineer, DORTH
9. Shri Sarvan Kumar, Director, Planning Commission
10. Shri Bora Ete, Chief Engineer, PWD, Arunachal Pradesh
11. Shri S.S. Tyagi, Assistant Engineer, PWD, Arunachal Pradesh
12. Shri B. Talukdar, Dy Resident Commissioner, Arunachal Pradesh
13. Shri Mumtaz Uddin Ahmed, Chief Engineer, PWD, Assam
14. Shri Ravi Shankar, NHPC
15. Dr. S.S. Baghel, V.C. AA U, Jorhat
16. Shri Pankaj Asthana, Director, DONER